

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01989 291321Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 PRS-01 USIA-06 /037 W

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P R 291249Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3573

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1989

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, BEXP, ST

SUBJECT: SECURITY EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION -- US TRADE CENTER LONDON,
JUNE 2 TO 6

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN REQUESTS CONFIRMATION THAT
SUBJECT SHOW WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED AND ASKS WHETHER
EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC. REQUEST PRIORITY REPLY
FROM LONDON. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN DR. M.Z. ABOU HARB PROVIDED ECONOFF
WITH FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL CABLE ADDRESSED TO MR. AHMAD YOUSSEF,
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, DAMASCUS
UNIVERSITY: "URGENT YOUR ATTENDANCE SECURITY EXHIBITION
US TRADE CENTER LONDON ENGLAND JUNE 2-6 UNVEILING
LATEST ELZCTRONIC SURVEILLANCE COUNTERMEASURES. CONTACT
C.E. NORRIS 01-490-9000. JAMIL COMMUNICATION CONTROL CORP."
CABLE RECEIVED DAMASCUS MAY 24, RETURN CODE FOR JAMIL SYDA
HL UIPW 043, NEW YORK NY 43-30 23 1437.

3. ABOUHARB ASKED IF WE COULD CONFIRM THAT EXHIBITION
WOULD BE HELD AS INDICATED AND WHETHER SHOW WILL BE OPEN
TO PUBLIC, E.E., SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN AND/OR SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

4. AS USDOC AWARE, ABOUHARB IS ACTIVELY IN PURSUIT OF
COMMISSION/AGENT BUSINESS HERE; HE IS BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS
HAD PROBLEMS WITH PENNSYLVANIA MINING COMPANY AND JOSEPH
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01989 291321Z

GERALD MCELROY OF PMC (DAMASCUS 1892, STATE 115377 AND

PREVIOUS). USDOC AND MC; JFVAUGHN (VAUGHN/MCELROY LETTER MARCH 28) ARE AWARE OF MCELROY'S INTEREST IN ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT FOR SYRIA; MCELROY HAD OBTAINED THAT PARTICULAR COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM ABOVE-MENTIONED AHMAD YOUSSEF OF DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY, WHO ABOUHARB DESCRIBED AS "TECHNICAL ADVISER TO SYRIAN MILITARY ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT."

5. ABOUHARB SAID HIS AND YOUSSEF'S INTEREST IN THIS TRADE CENTER SHOW ENCOURAGED BY JAMES COMYNS OF COMYNS BROTHERS (PARA 4, STATE 115377), WHO ABOUHARB SAID, CLAIMS THAT US FIRM FAIRCHILD ELECTRONICS DESIRES TO SELL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT TO SYRIA. ABOUHARB, MENTIONING IN PASSING THAT SYRIA HAD PURCHASES LS 20 MILLION (\$5.48 MILLION) WORTH OF SUCH EQUIPMENT FROM BRITISH SUPPLIERS LAST YEAR, SAID THAT SYRIANS WANTED TO CONTACT FAIRCHILD DIRECTLY AT TRADE CENTER, LONDON, SO AS TO CONCLUDE DIRECT PURCHASES.

6. PER 10 FAM 182, WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE ABOUHARB IN ANY WAY, BUT DID AGREE TO "USUAL COURTESY" OF PASSING HIS INQUIRY TO LONDON. BEARING IN MIND EXCHANGE CONCERNING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION, LONDON, MAY 12-16 (DAMASCUS 1631, LONDON 6918, AND STATE 106642), OUR ONLY FUTURE ACTION WILL BE TO ANSWER ABOUHARB'S TWO QUESTIONS WHEN REPLY RECEIVED FROM LONDON, BELIEVING THIS WILL NOT FALL WITHIN CATEGORY OF "ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING SYRIAN MILITARY INTEREST" (STATE 106642).
MURPHY

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